

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] A method for processing invoices
2 by having the individual employee of an enterprise creating
3 an original order for goods and services for end-use by said
4 individual employee determine that a resulting invoice
5 should be paid or not, comprising the steps of:

6 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog
7 system from said individual employee a requisition for
8 goods or services from a vendor for end-use by said
9 individual employee;

10 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing
11 from said requisition a purchase order;

12 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
13 submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an
14 EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said
15 vendor;

16 receiving from a first vendor an invoice for said goods

17 or services as an electronic invoice for processing by
18 said enterprise accounting and catalog system;

19 receiving from a second vendor an invoice for goods or
20 services as a paper invoice for processing to said
21 enterprise accounting and catalog system by accounts
22 payable personnel other than said individual employee;

23 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for
24 said goods or services ordered by said individual
25 employee;

26 storing said invoice image in an image store;

27 keying said image to invoice data;

28 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
29 communicating by electronic mail a plurality of
30 confirmation requests to said individual employee
31 creating original orders for goods or services for end-
32 use by said individual employee, each said request
33 instructing said individual employee to log on to said
34 enterprise accounting and catalog system, including
35 said invoice data and a link to said invoice image, and

specifying that each said invoice is subject
selectively to negative confirmation and positive
confirmation processing[[,]];

said negative confirmation processing for a first
confirmation request including advising said individual
employee via e-mail that said invoice is confirmed
unless specifically not approved by said individual
employee, and said positive confirmation processing for
a second confirmation request including advising said
individual employee that said invoice will be confirmed
upon entry by said individual employee of approval;

providing at a user workstation a search interface in
said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said
individual employee to enter criteria and have links to
images of invoices that match said criteria be
displayed at said user workstation; and

responsive to selection of a link by said individual,
displaying said invoice image for approval by said
individual creating said original order selectively by
said negative confirmation and positive confirmation
processing.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 3. [Previously presented] The method of claim 2, further
2 comprising the step of:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
5 image file representation having the look of a paper
6 invoice.

1 4. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, said
2 invoice confirmation request advising said individual
3 employee to process said confirmation as negative
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 5. [Previously presented] The method of claim 4, said
2 invoice confirmation request further advising said
3 individual employee to log on to a front-end requisition and

4 catalog server to view invoices for confirmation.

1 6. [Previously presented] The method of claim 5, further
2 comprising the step responsive to said individual employee
3 logging on to said front-end server of displaying a list of
4 invoices awaiting confirmation and responsive to user
5 selection of a selected invoice, presenting images of
6 invoices corresponding to links selected by said individual
7 employee.

1 7. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, further
2 comprising the steps of presenting to said individual
3 employee an interface for selecting images of invoices
4 matching a selection criteria.

8. [Canceled]

1 9. [Previously presented] A system for processing
2 invoices by having the individual employee creating an
3 original order for goods or services for end use by said
4 individual determine that a resulting invoice should be paid
5 or not, comprising:

6 a front-end requisition and catalog system;

7 a back-end procurement services system;

8 a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

9 an image system and store for storing said scanned
10 images and serving them to said workstation keyed to
11 said invoice;

12 a workstation selectively receiving user entry from
13 said individual employee of a requisition request for
14 goods or services for end-use by said individual
15 employee, receiving confirmation requests, and viewing
16 images of invoices from said image system and store;
17 said confirmation request instructing said individual
18 employee to log on to said back-end system to view and
19 approve a first invoice by negative and a second
20 invoice by positive confirmation processing, said
21 negative confirmation processing including advising
22 said individual employee via e-mail that said invoice
23 is confirmed unless specifically not approved by said
24 individual employee, and said positive confirmation
25 processing including advising said individual employee
26 that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said

27 individual employee of approval;

28 said front-end system selectively receiving said
29 requisition requests from said workstation, forwarding
30 said requisition requests to said back-end system, and
31 receiving confirmation requests from said back-end
32 system for forwarding to said workstation; and

33 said back-end system selectively issuing purchase
34 orders against said requisitions to a vendor at least
35 one invoice as electronic invoice and another invoice
36 as a paper purchase order, receiving and processing
37 invoices electronic invoices directly from said vendor
38 and paper invoices as received and processed by
39 accounts payable personnel other than said individual
40 employee, keying invoice images to invoice information,
41 and processing confirmation requests to said front-end
42 system for communication to said workstation for
43 approval by said individual employee creating said
44 original order for goods or services for end use by
45 said individual employee.

1 10. [Previously presented] A program storage device

2 readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of
3 instructions executable by a machine to perform a method for
4 processing invoices by having the individual employee
5 creating an original order as an end user of a commodity or
6 service determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or
7 not, said method comprising:

8 receiving a plurality of invoices;

9 preparing for each said invoice an invoice image;

10 storing said invoice image in an image store;

11 keying said image to invoice data;

12 communicating first and second invoice confirmation
13 requests to said individual employee, each said request
14 including said invoice data for respective invoice
15 confirmation requests and respective links to invoice
16 images;

17 responsive to requester selection of a first link,
18 displaying a corresponding invoice image to said
19 individual employee for approval by said individual

20 employee creating said original order according to a
21 specified confirmation process; said individual
22 employee processing a first invoice by a negative
23 confirmation process including advising said individual
24 employee via e-mail that said first invoice is
25 confirmed unless specifically not approved by said
26 individual employee, and said individual employee
27 processing a second invoice by a positive confirmation
28 process including advising said individual employee
29 that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said
30 individual employee of approval.

1 11. [Currently amended] A computer program product for
2 processing invoices by having the individual employee
3 creating an original order for goods and services for end-
4 use by said individual employee determine that a resulting
5 invoice should be paid or not according to steps comprising:

6 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog
7 system from one or more of said individual employees a
8 plurality of requisitions for goods or services from a
9 vendor for end use by said individual employees;

10 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing
11 from said requisitions a plurality of purchase orders;

12 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
13 submitting each said purchase order selectively as EDI
14 message and a paper purchasing document a vendor;

15 receiving from a first vendor an invoice for said goods
16 or services as an electronic invoice, said electronic
17 invoice being received for processing by said
18 enterprise accounting and catalog system;

19 receiving from a second vendor an invoice for said
20 goods or serves as a paper invoice, said paper invoice
21 being received for processing to said enterprise
22 accounting and catalog system by accounts payable
23 personnel other than said individual employee;

24 preparing invoice images of a plurality of invoices
25 received for said goods or services ordered by said
26 individual employees;

27 storing said invoice ~~invoice~~ images in an image store;

28 keying each said image to corresponding invoice data;

29 said enterprise accounting and catalog system

30 communicating by electronic mail an invoice

31 confirmation request for each invoice image to said

32 individual employee, said request instructing said

33 individual employee to log on to said enterprise

34 accounting and catalog system, including said invoice

35 data and a link to said invoice image, and specifying

36 that said invoice is selectively subject to negative

37 confirmation and positive confirmation processing, a

38 first invoice processed by said negative confirmation

39 processing including advising said individual employee

40 via e-mail that said first invoice is confirmed unless

41 specifically not approved by said individual employee,

42 and a second invoice processed by said positive

43 confirmation processing including advising said

44 individual employee that said invoice will be confirmed

45 upon entry by said individual employee of approval;

46 providing at a user workstation a search interface in

47 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said

48 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to

49 images of invoices that match said criteria be

50 displayed at said user workstation; and

51 responsive to selection of a link by said individual
52 employee, displaying said invoice image for approval by
53 said individual employee creating said original order
54 for goods or services for end use by said individual
55 employee selectively by said negative confirmation and
56 positive confirmation processing.

1 12. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said method further comprising:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 13. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 12, said method further comprising:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
5 image file representation having the look of a paper
6 invoice.

1 14. [Previously presented] The program storage device of

2 claim 10, said invoice confirmation request advising said
3 individual employee to process said confirmation as negative
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 15. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 14, said invoice confirmation request further advising
3 said individual employee to log on to a front- end
4 requisition and catalog server to view invoices for
5 confirmation.

1 16. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 15, said method further comprising responsive to said
3 individual employee logging on to said front-end server of
4 displaying a list of invoices awaiting confirmation and
5 responsive to selection of a selected invoice by said
6 individual employee, presenting images of invoices
7 corresponding to links selected by said individual employee.

1 17. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said method further comprising presenting to said
3 individual employee an interface for selecting images of
4 invoices matching a selection criteria.